



**USW Testimony on Renewable Energy
State Senate Energy and Technology Committee
March 18, 2014**

Hello, my name is Allen Cholger and I'm the Sub District Director of USW District 2, Southern Michigan. The United Steelworkers is 1.2 million working and retired members throughout the United States and Canada, working together to improve our jobs; to build a better future for our families; and to promote fairness, justice and equality both on the job and in our societies.

Expanding the use of renewable energy across Michigan continues to be a top priority because renewable sources such as wind and solar especially offer a tremendous opportunity to curb greenhouse gas emissions, grow domestic manufacturing and create jobs and stimulate growth. Policies that protect the environment and grow the economy together are as important today as they have ever been.

A pro-growth agenda in Michigan that diversifies our energy supply and creates jobs must include renewable electricity and maintaining and expanding clean energy investments that have already opened the door to make Michigan a powerhouse in the renewable energy and renewable energy manufacturing sectors.

In the third quarter of 2013, Michigan ranked fourth in the nation in clean energy jobs announced. Michigan's clean energy sector supports 20,500 jobs and \$5 billion in annual economic activity. Locally produced renewable energy is a strong economic driver, attracting investment and creating jobs that can't be shipped overseas.

While laws like our Renewable Portfolio Standard have served us well, it is set to expire in 2015. We must renew this common-sense policy and also strengthen it so we can draw even more family-sustaining jobs to Michigan. The fact is that expanding renewable energy will create more jobs for Michigan workers.

According to an Environment America report, clean energy policies adopted by states and the federal government from 2007 to 2012 reduced emissions by 162 million metric tons in 2012. That is equal to annual emissions from 34 million vehicles, or all the passenger cars and trucks in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois and Colorado combined.

We have the choice to take the necessary actions to address climate change and move into a clean energy future—which done right will create jobs and stimulate growth—or we risk getting left behind in the global economy. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.